

Renewed Clare Rural  
Development Strategy

2030

*Realising*  
**Clare's Rural Potential**  
Our Life, Our Home





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Our Life, Our Home

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Development Strategy

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# 2030









As the first citizen of Clare, I wish to thank the members of the Clare Rural Development Forum for undertaking a review of the Clare Rural Development Strategy 2030. This review comes at a time of considerable policy change in Ireland which will ensure that Clare can continue to deliver on the key goals and actions from the original Clare Rural Development Strategy.

This strategy was initially developed as a 10-year plan for the development of Rural Clare. As we reach the mid-term point we must be conscious of unprecedented challenges that have affected the implementation of the strategy over the past two years. Therefore, it is very timely now to review the aims and objectives of the plan and to extend the implementation period to 2030 to account for the impact of the Covid pandemic, on the delivery of the plan to ensure that we get the best possible outcome for Rural Clare. The review of the Strategy will ensure that the objectives within it remain realistic and achievable. Where required, they have been updated and new relevant actions included.

Improving the lives of those living and working in Clare's rural communities is a priority of the Rural Development Forum. There is a huge untapped potential in rural Clare for both jobs & tourism, where there are strong communities with ideas and ambition for their futures. The objective of this renewed strategy is to unlock that potential and improve the lives of people living in, working in or visiting County Clare.

I encourage the various agencies and community organisations to continue to work together, building on the successes already achieved and continue to provide opportunities for sustained quality of life.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge my predecessor, Cllr. PJ Ryan, for his support of this strategy during his term of office.

Le meas,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Tony O'Brien'.

Councillor Tony O'Brien  
Cathaoirleach, Clare County Council.









The original Clare Rural Development Strategy was developed around our vision of how we want rural Clare to look in 2026. Rural Clare is rich in culture, heritage and natural capital. It offers tremendous benefits and quality of life for those who live here. We want to make it an even better place in which to live, work and visit by creating new opportunities, improving connectivity and access between rural and urban areas, and by protecting and enhancing services in the community.

Having assessed how Covid has affected the implementation and delivery of the plan, it was felt that to maximise the full potential of the strategy a revised implementation period to 2030 is required. The new timeline allows the strategy to align itself with the Clare County Development Plan 2023 – 2029, upcoming Local Economic and Community Plan 2023 – 2028, and to link in and with other local policies, strategies and objectives over the lifetime of the plan. The actions set out in the original strategy when launched in 2017 targeted a reversal of the statistical trends that emphasised the stark challenges facing rural Clare. Over the past 5 years the Rural Development Forum and its constituent agencies have strived to deliver on key actions within the Strategy.

There have been unprecedented and unpredictable challenges to all members of communities in County Clare as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic which took over our lives and communities for 2 years. During the last 12 months, we have faced a new challenge in welcoming over 4,200 displaced Ukrainian refugees to our county. While this has greatly increased our population figures in some of the more rural parts of the county, it has also raised awareness that further infrastructure and services supports are required in these areas. The demand for school places, regular and school transport, GP and out of hours medical services, community facilities, community supports, adult education, and employment opportunities have all increased. We have also seen additional pressure on our vibrant tourism product, in particular during the key months of June, July and August.

This renewed strategy continues to challenge the thinking that urban living is the only model for the future. Our strategy, even more so now, will focus its aims on delivering jobs, multi-service centres, co-operating communities, environmental programmes, age-friendly communities, vibrant rural ways of life, digitally supported communities and a range of infrastructure. Continued collaboration between Forum organisations and communities, businesses, Elected Members, State agencies, Government Departments and key influencers is required to achieve these renewed objectives.

Clare County Council to date, remains one of the only local authorities in Ireland to establish a Rural Development Directorate managed by a dedicated Director of Service demonstrating the specific value and emphasis that we place on Rural Clare. Through its membership of the Clare Rural Development Forum and in collaboration with its partners, Clare County Council is committed to providing the essential community development supports to facilitate the implementation of new and renewed actions set out in this Clare Rural Development Strategy 2030.

I believe that by working together, we can achieve the progress needed to ensure that rural communities can look to the future with optimism.

Le meas,  
On behalf of Clare Rural Development Forum

(Chairperson) Clare Rural Development Forum,  
Chief Executive Clare County Council







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## Executive Summary

This Strategy is based on the review of implementation of the first Clare Rural Development strategy adopted for Clare in 2017. The review, which is published separately, recommended a renewal of the objectives and targets of the strategy to allow the Clare Rural Development Forum to lead out delivery of additional actions to 2030, underpinning the successful implementation of the original strategy. The review process involved healthy engagement with various stakeholders in the public and private sector. A number of workshops were held in 2021/2022 to engage with various interest bodies and sectoral agents and stakeholders to gain their feedback. Detailed submissions were gratefully received from a number of organisations and engagement was also sought from the general public through an online forum “Have your Say” which generated further feedback on the renewed strategy.

The approach to rural development in County Clare is considered within an integrated strategy, linked to policies across a wide range of sectoral areas, that engage with multiple strengths, challenges, opportunities, and threats faced by rural communities. In this renewed strategy, the Clare Rural Development Forum has identified 10 new strategic objectives to be delivered across a total of 33 sub-actions.

These 10 strategic objectives are as follow;

- Building Social Enterprises
- Growing our Multi-Service Centres and digital/broadband
- Co-operating communities under the umbrella of the Municipal District Offices
- Managing the environment and just transition to carbon neutrality
- Supporting and growing Age Friendly initiatives
- Sustaining our rural way of life through our dynamic agriculture and marine communities
- Enhancement of Transport and Water/Wastewater Infrastructure
- Support the delivery of Education, Child, and Youth Services
- Building tourism
- Population Growth and Balance and meeting the needs of incoming communities.

The implementation of the renewed strategy will be monitored and evaluated by the Clare Rural Development Forum.



This process will be informed by the following key indicators:

1. Percentage increase in population in rural Clare (allowing for the Ukraine population) and population balance across the County
2. Percentage increase in commercial rate income within each municipal district as a direct result of increased business activity and creation of new business opportunities
3. Percentage increase in public expenditure as a consequence of the Strategy
4. Reduction in vacancy/dereliction rates in the County
5. Percentage increase in full time/equivalence employment in rural Clare
6. Percentage increase in rural transport usage and percentage reduction in private car ownership
7. Number of Teacher/pupil ratio in rural schools
8. Prioritise rollout of Broadband in Rural Clare and monitor broadband speeds across the county
9. Fluctuations in deprivation scores (consequent on Census 2022 returns) and based upon an updated statistical analysis of socio-economic conditions in the County
10. Percentage increase in rural population having access to improved wastewater treatment infrastructure.

The first order of business for the Clare Rural Development Forum will be to provide a baseline indicator in 2023 for each of the above, subject to data being made readily available from local and national service providers, from which measurable performance can be realised and reviewed over the lifetime of the Renewed Strategy to 2030. Any amendments or adjustments to the above performance indicators will be a matter for the Forum.











# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Background to Strategy

The Clare Rural Development Forum was specifically established to give rural communities the opportunity to work with the various public agencies, in shaping a roadmap for the development of rural Clare in the years ahead. The Clare Rural Development Strategy 2026 was agreed by the Forum in 2017. It was the first such Strategy adopted by a local authority in Ireland. A key aspect of the Strategy was that it would be renewed in 2021 to ensure that intervening changes in the socio-economic environment in Clare and at national level, including national policy, would be included. In addition, the renewal would provide the opportunity to reflect on progress in the implementation of the Strategy to date and provide for any necessary re-focusing of the Strategy<sup>1</sup>.

This renewed Strategy is now a re-iteration of the commitment of the Forum, through its members, to establish Clare as one of the best places in Ireland in which to live, work, visit and invest, now and into the future.

The Forum consists of community and voluntary groups, local development bodies, public representatives, and key state agencies<sup>2</sup>.

## 1.2 Our Guiding Principles and shared understanding

Rural development in County Clare is considered within an integrated strategy, linked to policies across a wide range of sectoral areas, that engage with multiple strengths, challenges, opportunities, and threats faced by rural communities across the County. The Forum, consequently, was guided by a set of principles that include:

- A commitment to supporting bottom-up and community-led development.
- Building the capacity for innovative community collaboration that challenges traditional approaches.
- Being innovative in how we support sustainable development.
- Supporting social solidarity and inclusion
- Working together as communities and agencies to create a better future for rural Clare.
- Being open and transparent in all our efforts to make Clare a better place.
- Encouraging all parts of rural society in Clare to be active in building our shared future.

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<sup>1</sup> Enclosed in this folder Review of Clare Rural Development Strategy 2026 by Dr. Seán O’Riordáin and Associates, under a separate cover.

<sup>2</sup> See Appendix 1 Clare Rural Development Forum Membership and Secretariat.



### 1.3 Rural Clare

The members of the Forum have taken an open view on what constitutes rural Clare, its towns, villages, and open countryside. As part of the review undertaken for the renewal of the Strategy, members of the Forum and the Council re-stated this view. Consequently, while stretching physically from the Wild Atlantic in the west to the beautifully tranquil Lough Derg in the east, from Loop Head to Scarriff, from Ballynacally to Ballyvaughan, rural Clare also extends to our widely dispersed global diaspora. The Forum recognises the key economic and social role of the county town of Ennis and the importance of Shannon town and the cities of Limerick and Galway, to which many of Clare's rural population travel to work.

The renewed Strategy also continues to acknowledge that rural Clare, with its rich physical environment, its built and cultural heritage, its magnificent landscapes, and seascapes, can be proud of its history, heritage, environment, and natural produce. Our shared culture, with its diverse identities and histories, inspires us to positively confront our challenges and avail of the many opportunities that surround us. We acknowledge that this Strategy provides for a future that will sustain all our people and will do so in a manner that nurtures our culture, builds opportunity, and maintains solidarity.

### 1.4 Strategic Focus

This Renewed Clare Rural Development Strategy focuses on a number of critical considerations:

- targeting specific geographical areas in order to maintain and grow their populations whilst building community capacity to take advantage of the implementation of the renewed strategy
- providing special supports to co-operating communities under the municipal district structure so that they can achieve sufficient scale of population and resources to attract public investment and justify private investment
- developing innovative and community-based actions where multiple agencies can deliver their services through social enterprise centres and other local hubs
- increasing the quality of the physical, built, social and cultural environment of rural areas so that they are more attractive places in which to live, both now and in the future underpinning the capacity of the County to access exchequer resources under the rural

and social development policies of state agencies and national development policies of the State. In doing so this will build upon the success of the County in the earlier stages of implementation of the original Strategy.

#### 1.4.1 *Focusing on Specific Geographic Areas Facing Particular Challenges*

Certain parts of Clare, including key traditional towns and large tracts of open countryside have experienced long-term population decline. Unless radical and innovative interventions are designed and delivered, their decline could be set to continue, notwithstanding recent population growth and the successful implementation of the Strategy thus far. The Forum membership will apply our combined efforts and resources to ensure the future of the most challenged areas of the County, most notably those areas that have yet to benefit from the implementation of the Strategy. In doing so the Forum will continue to support the work of existing and future Town Teams as well as the efforts of the Rural & Community Development Officers team of Clare County Council.

#### 1.4.2 *Focusing on towns and villages and ensuring accessible public and private services.*

If our rural communities are to have a future, they need to have a growing population that is economically active and socially engaged and which can access quality public and private services. This means that existing communities will continue to be supported by the Rural and Community Development Directorate established by the Council on adoption of the Strategy. Co-operating communities, under the umbrella of the four Municipal Districts, will aim to be large enough to justify the maintenance of public facilities and services (e.g., education, transport, leisure and recreation, health, welfare, security, water and wastewater, and employment) and the development of economically viable private enterprises and services (e.g., hotels, retail, private professional services). We will also have specific focus on communities which have not benefited from earlier efforts to regenerate our rural areas, working through the Rural Development Directorate, Town Centre First initiative and all supporting stakeholders to enhance the scope for revitalisation of such communities.

#### 1.4.3 *Focusing on a quality environment.*

The more rural parts of the County continue to experience long-term decline of its natural and built environment. There is, notwithstanding the Strategy, continuing decline in the quality of the social fabric as



a result of inadequate provision of a range of public services. Opportunities for social interaction and cultural activity remain a challenge. This renewed Strategy aims to address these deficiencies by means of community led, multi-agency responses that promote environmentally sustainable practices as well as social and cultural activities underpinned by the necessary infrastructure.

### 1.5 Informing Other Plans

A continuing purpose of this renewed Rural Development Strategy is to provide other plans and strategies with a clear vision for rural Clare. Considerable progress has been made in aligning the policies of the Council with the objectives of the Strategy, but it remains the case that this has not fully been embedded into other local public service policies. The adoption of a whole of government rural development policy at national level will underpin the work of the Forum in ensuring that such alignment is given effect over the course of the period to 2030. This renewed Strategy delivers the roadmap and key signposts for those delivering public services and for those making public investment, so that they can align their services and investment. This will ensure the County is home to vibrant, open, welcoming, industrious communities capable of sustaining themselves into the future. This re-alignment needs to be put into place, especially in addressing issues such

as rural poverty and exclusion, without any further delay so that unnecessary barriers to delivering our renewed Strategy will not get in the way of our combined efforts.

Particular focus will be placed on embedding the strategic direction set out herewith in the Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029, the forthcoming Local Economic and Community Plan and Clare's Climate Action Plan. It will also underpin the Council's budgeting, Corporate planning and will be used by the Council in its public service leadership role to encourage other public bodies to underpin the Rural development potential of the County. It is envisaged that this will be clearly set out in a local public service agreement which will set out the necessary joint actions to underpin the future of rural Clare (See Section 4.3). Separately there is a strong case for the Forum to take the initiative of developing an anti-poverty strategy for the county which was a recurring concern identified in the consultation on the renewed strategy, and was also acknowledged in the Clare PPN publication "Towards an Anti Poverty Strategy for Clare". In doing so it would be the first such strategy in the Country and would position the County to highlight the case for bespoke resourcing of anti-poverty initiatives which could become models for other rural Counties







## 2. Rural Clare – Its key assets

### 2.1 Leveraging Community Resources

Community identity has been and continues to be built in rural Clare around the County's traditional parishes and townlands of which there are more than 2,000 in the County. This shared community identity has helped align the many diverse identities of the County's sporting clubs and organisations (farming, political and cultural). The combination of community identity and organisational identity has mobilised large scale voluntary effort most notably during the Covid pandemic. Local fundraising in conjunction with National & Local funding streams continues to support, develop, and maintain:

- community centres, community buildings and heritage centres some of which are leased from the state or religious organisations,
- sporting and recreational facilities,
- social 'not for profit' enterprises which are formally incorporated and generally work in meeting the needs of all sectors of the community in the areas of care, community enterprise and development, tourism development, and community facilities.

Shared community identity, so clearly reflected in the last number of years, is a constant reminder to all of the need to prioritise projects for the 'greater good' of the community. In addition, the operational costs of such facilities will increase due to increased cost of living impacting electricity, insurances and other

operational costs. Consequently the capability of community groups to meet such costs should be explored during the lifespan of the renewed Strategy.

Nonetheless, the need to strengthen community endeavour and initiative continues to be more pressing than ever and forms a core rationale for this renewed Strategy. Declining and ageing populations, new emerging needs, and the financial strain of maintaining fixed assets and resources continue to require substantive responses, both immediate and long-term. Dependency on such groups cannot continue indefinitely in certain aspects of public service delivery and addressing this will require further consideration by the Forum. Our communities are our most valuable resource in rural Clare and engagement with these communities needs to be a key consideration of the Forum in the years ahead.

### 2.2 Meeting the needs of our Ukrainian Community

As this renewed Strategy is being prepared the County is host to new arrivals from Ukraine that have been forced to flee their Country as a consequence of the war initiated by the Russian Authorities. The Forum wishes to highlight its support, moral and material, to the people of Ukraine and to other members of our Clare community who have been forced from their Countries over recent years.



The Forum is very conscious of the challenges arising from having many people arriving into the County at short notice with the need for creating a safe and supporting environment for them. In that context the members of the Forum will continue to support the ease of entry of the incoming population as far as possible through the combined efforts of the community and voluntary sectors in Clare and the supporting statutory bodies represented on the Forum.

As a consequence, the Forum have decided to include a specific objective in this renewed Strategy which addresses the immediate and medium term needs of the incoming communities to ensure that their presence in Clare is welcomed and that the various commitments of the members and organisations of the Forum will be consistent in that welcome over the life of the renewed Strategy. This focus will also have regard to the need to support the many active communities across Clare as they work to successfully integrate incoming people into the great community that is Clare.

### 2.3 Rural Clare – Its continuing challenges

In order to fully exploit the opportunities of rural living, the following challenges need to be continuously reviewed:

- the continued alignment of community effort with emerging need and how this is supported in the future
- the highly dependent demographic structure with a low active age population;
- the particular set of social conditions, including poverty, requiring specific public service

responses.

- the high dependency on low-skilled, low paid traditional sectors; the minimal presence of modern sector activity; the long commutes.
- the continuing low population and rural depopulation across the County along with the disappearance of sustainable family farms, land abandonment and rural isolation.
- Inadequate public investment and poor infrastructure, most notably, housing, local transport and wastewater infrastructure.

As a result, out-migration, particularly among the active age population, to locations more proximate to employment and key services, becomes more attractive and results in a further round of low rates of ‘family formation’ which, in turn, results in a declining young replacement population and an increasing older population- a self-perpetuating circle of decline and poor development balance. In part these challenges may be rebalanced with the incoming population of refugees from Ukraine and elsewhere, but the existing challenges remain to be addressed alongside providing opportunity for those coming into the County.

In the absence of recent census data due to the Covid Pandemic the above challenges are principally informed by the experiences of the Forum members. There was an acknowledgement that these will need to be verified once the 2022 Census data becomes available. A comprehensive statistical analysis of the County will be required once the Census 2022 data is available.





## 2.4 Rural Clare - Conclusion

A re-focused effort is required to mobilise rural Clare's assets. This needs to be done in such a way that it is people-driven, community-led, environmentally sensitive and values the rural way of life. In addition, it needs to identify opportunities for economic, social, and cultural growth. In this way, the people of rural Clare will have command of the resources needed to participate in the activities impacting their daily lives and have the living conditions and amenities, which are customary or at least generally encouraged or approved, in their wider community.

There is a continuing need to focus specifically on untapping the key natural resources of rural Clare such as its food, forestry, environment (landscape, seascape, flora, fauna, built heritage, etc.), culture and current way of life. While many of these resources offer opportunities for production, manufacturing, tourism, modern services and everyday living, they are part of a legacy for future generations.

Deficits in the skill base and sectoral enterprises remain to be addressed, particularly in the promotion of more modern knowledge ICT-based industries, smart agriculture, opportunities in thermal upgrades of houses and renewable energy activities, and marine technological developments. The emerging labour shortages in the more traditional sectors (e.g., farm relief, multi-skilled hand workers, routine maintenance workers, hospitality workers) provide opportunities for employment in many parts of rural Clare. Movement in this direction will involve up-skilling the labour force and identifying more modern sector employment opportunities, as well as opening opportunity for the people of rural Clare including those now joining our

communities. As a consequence, per capita incomes will be raised and consumption expenditure increased so that private investment is encouraged, especially in retail and private services. Indirectly this will improve communities' capacity to fund further initiatives.

Particular attention is required to address the needs of rural Clare's ageing population, living alone or as couples, and predominantly, in open countryside. They occupy an ageing housing stock and, in the absence of public provision, are dependent on private or community transport. When they are no longer able to drive, they may have to move to more urban centred facilities. Greater public costs are incurred, and people lose their social networks at a great cost to their emotional, psychological, and physical health. There will also be a need to ensure that the younger population of Clare has access to education and training, leisure, and economic opportunities.

Various infrastructural deficits continually need to be addressed, especially in the areas of broadband, water, and wastewater treatment as well as transport. These are a prerequisite, since in their absence, many rural residents, younger and older, are denied access to the range of opportunities that have become customary in the society to which they belong.







## 3. Continuing the Innovation to support Rural and Community Development

### 3.1 Introduction

The Forum in the original Strategy identified the key resources that offer opportunities for the revitalisation of rural Clare as:

- the long tradition of successful community-led development.
  - the land and marine-based opportunities for Agri- and marine foods and their by-products as well as renewable energy production, including wind, solar and wave.
  - the private professional services sector, especially those seeking to work from home.
  - the wealth of environmental assets, from the physical to the cultural, that offer rich quality of life opportunities while at the same time attracting increasing numbers of visitors both overseas and domestic.
  - the pivotal role for communities in addressing the emerging need for greater 'value for money' in the delivery of public services through a cooperating community's model; and
  - the opportunities for those wishing to pursue a particular way of life and those who are willing to re-settle or are joining our communities.
- These remain valid following the review undertaken in preparation of this renewed Strategy. The Forum also identified the following underlying negative dynamics of rural decline which continue to be applicable as:
- the overly competitive, fragmented, and small-scale community initiatives that often have a large unsustainable physical infrastructural component.
  - the lack of employment opportunities that are compatible with people's education and aspirations that are often coupled with high commuting costs resulting in the out-migration of the critical family-forming age group (25 to 40 years).
  - the diminishing attractiveness of rural areas, especially for young families as a result of the contraction and/or withdrawal of private and public investment (retail services, enterprise development, welfare and family support services, Health services, including GPs, Post Offices, Schools, Garda stations, transport services, wastewater, etc.).
  - the diminishing local purchasing power and consequent poor private investment in consumer goods and services;



- the increasing demands for care of an older population, on a voluntary or low-pay basis, that has made significant demands on the local labour force.
- the increasing demand on the physical and service infrastructure (e.g., broadband, water/wastewater public transport service), that has made migration to more urban settings preferable.

### 3.2 Innovative approaches to achieving Scale and Comparative Advantage

Rural economic decline is impacted by the lack of scale and comparative advantage of its productive resources (land, entrepreneurship, and labour) with consequent low public and private investment.

The future of rural Clare depends heavily on the extent to which its communities can achieve economies of scale and develop or exploit their existing strengths and opportunities. Our demographic and resource analysis identified, for the original strategy, a number of neighbouring towns and, in the more open countryside, a number of neighbouring parishes that, by working more closely together, could become self-sustaining and provide a platform for the rest of the County to develop. The establishment of Municipal Districts by the Council has resulted in a migration of services into these areas from Council Headquarters and these platforms now provide the basis for a continuing strengthening of local service provision across the full extent of the County.



*Map of Municipal Districts in County Clare*

Scale and comparative advantage will be achieved within the Municipal District structures of the County enabling such development by:

- providing support to the pooling of land and marine-based output (food, forestry, energy).
- agreeing common access protocols to support

tourism products of a scale that is sufficient to market them internationally and nationally,

- adopting innovative community-based approaches to support renewable energy generation.
- developing and applying technologies to the task of environmental management and monitoring, local service provision, tourism information, internet-based products, and services, etc.
- Identifying land/sites to attract private/community investment with associated community participation and the identification of financing opportunities through the Rural & Community Development Officers;
- branding areas as eco-friendly, habitat-rich, bio-diverse, socially responsible, carbon-neutral, culturally diverse, heritage-rich, and socially vibrant.

The Municipal Districts provide the opportunity for attracting greater private investment, a wider range of public services and increased investment in sports, recreation and cultural facilities and amenities. The Forum will assist in identifying the range and extent of services which could be made available in the connected towns and the co-operating communities in the municipal districts, as a result of which, public investment would achieve greater 'value for money'.



### 3.3 Innovative approaches to Community Mobilisation

Change requires leadership, persuasion, and support. Leadership is required to chart a new bold vision and stay with its strategic direction, particularly at a time when continuing to work in the traditional ways is not an option. Persuasion is required to overcome historical divisions and create new coalitions, identities, and ways of doing things. Public support, in its various forms, is required to achieve practical outcomes, particularly those that are innovative, challenging and contribute to public welfare but are not a priority for the private sector to deliver. The leadership of different



communities will therefore continue to be supported by the Council's Rural Development Directorate working with each Municipal District and across our communities to enhance their capacity, skills, and competence to co-operate. The communities will be enabled to determine their own future within the broad framework of this Strategy. This may involve difficult prioritisation and collaboration with statutory authorities.

Community planning initiatives in line with specific terms of reference that reflect the objectives of this renewed Strategy will be rolled out across the County, most notably, in areas that require greater capacity building and animation.

### 3.4 Key Performance Indicators

This renewed Strategy aims to achieve the following key performance indicators:

#### 3.4.1 Population Growth and Balance

It is critical that rural population across the towns, villages and rural settlements of the County be sustained with a clear stabilisation as a minimum over the remaining lifespan (allowing for the influx of people from Ukraine) of the strategy to 2030. In the absence of the 2021 census, it is difficult to fully highlight the areas which are most at risk so as soon as the Census 2022 data becomes available the growth, or lack of it, will need to be examined to determine whether any further renewal effort under the umbrella of the Strategy is required. Stabilisation, and ultimately the growth, of the County's rural population will be contingent on overall implementation of the actions set out in the renewed Strategy but even these might not be enough and therefore will require careful consideration by the Forum towards the end of 2023. Understanding the varying dynamics of population and development balance will need to be underpinned by an updated statistical analysis which will reflect a truer understanding of the general socio-economic condition of the County.

#### 3.4.2 Economic Investment

Both enterprise and employment are essential to the future of rural areas. Low employment levels have been a significant contributor to declining populations. Employment and population numbers will be key performance indicators.

The areas, where there is potential for employment creation, include:

- the agriculture and marine sectors and the food and alternative/renewable energy industries.
- the tourism industry.
- the private professional services.
- the emerging 'working from home' and social enterprise occupations.

Over the next ten years, with the support of the National Development Plan 2030, increased public investment will underpin population growth and employment. In addition, there will be a particular focus on supporting local entrepreneurship, social enterprises, the circular economy (see below), remote/hybrid working and post pandemic rural growth. Communities will develop enterprises (including social) to provide essential local services, tourism information and enterprise supports. Modern broadband connectivity will continue to be made available to support those considering enterprise or interested in enhancing their skills or returning to work, training, education, or learning.

Within this Strategy, the achievement of these employment targets, including the development of social enterprises and circular economy, will continue to be supported by a range of organisations and programmes, such as those set out in the National Development Plan and aligned national, regional and local policies<sup>2</sup> and including the Local Enterprise Office (LEO), Office of the Action Plan for Jobs (APJ), the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP), the LEADER Programme, Town and Village Renewal Programme and Hi-speed Broadband Hubs of Clare County Council, E-working joint initiatives with the IDA, and the Regional Enterprise Development Fund. In parallel, the Clare Economic Development Strategy will provide the economic conditions and supports for the growth of enterprise and employment across the whole County and, will further advance employment opportunities, particularly in the existing growth corridor. Finally, the drafting of a new Local Economic and Community Plan will allow a focus on addressing local poverty together with long-term regeneration needs and opportunity.

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<sup>3</sup> See Appendix 2 The National and Regional Plans/Policies.



### *3.4.3 Community Run Social Enterprises and Multi-service centres.*

As a consequence of the investment initiated in the initial phase of the original Strategy, jobs will continue to be created in community-based and community-run social enterprises, the number of which will be a key performance indicator. Social and circular economy enterprises will:

- provide goods and services to the community on a commercial basis.
- seek to contract the delivery of public services from agencies such as HSE, Clare County Council, Gardai, An Post, Tourism Information, Employment and Enterprise supports and others.
- will provide and occupy multi-service centres where different agencies can offer their services more locally and in a manner that increases their 'value for money'.
- These centres will continue to act as enterprise hubs where a number of hot desks will provide high speed broadband access and where small-scale training and conferencing facilities will be available.

### *3.4.4 Enhanced Environment*

This Strategy is sub-titled 'Our Life, Our Home' in recognition of the fact that our environment is our very life – the air we breathe, the food we eat, the water we drink, the energy we use, the home we inhabit, the culture and heritage that is our daily inspiration - a home we share with many diverse life forms. Environmental quality, given how deeply it is interlinked with community vitality and sustainability, will form a key performance indicator since the health of our environment impacts on our health and our lifestyle impacts on our environment in a mutually nurturing, but fragile, interaction. The adoption of the Healthy Clare Strategy places further emphasis on the health and wellbeing of the people of Clare which is closely aligned to the strategic intent of this renewed Strategy.

While some people are born in and grow to cherish the rural way of life, others are drawn to it. This renewed Strategy will ensure that what we have inherited we will bequeath in a healthier state. Consequently, the celebration of our environment and our rural way of life, in all its artistic and recreational forms, will provide a unique contribution to the proper consideration and management of our environment in its physical, built and living form. This will include actions which

will facilitate our communities to act sustainably whilst also delivering on enhanced environment infrastructure and sustainable community-based transport.

### *3.4.5 Culturally- active and Inter-generationally connected.*

The original Strategy recognised that our social context is changing rapidly. This continues to be the case, particularly with the advent of the Covid 19 Pandemic and the impact of international strife. Particular attention will continue to be given to fostering intergenerational relationships and focusing on creating opportunities for all to participate in the social, cultural, and political life of the community. A particular focus will be required to address inter-generational poverty so a focus on having an implementation plan to do so will be required. In this context, it remains essential to consider all generations and all ages when planning our public and private spaces, facilities, amenities, and events. Never was it more apt, especially given the experience across the County in the shared response to Covid 19, to say that 'what is good for one is good for all'. Regardless of their age, it is essential to the physical and psychological health of people and their communities that the latter offers opportunities for the former to contribute economically, socially, culturally, and artistically. In this way, social cohesion and wellbeing is supported by activities and events. Their number, quality, diversity, and scale will form a key performance indicator by means of which we will know that the society we are now building will be appropriate to future generations.

As towns and villages are renewed people are less subject to isolation; they can walk to local public services such as libraries, entertainment, info hubs, shops and restaurants, community spaces; they are supported by a fully developed and integrated healthcare service and by local community/social enterprises that deliver daily services that are responsive to their needs. As a contribution to ensuring that people are safe and feel secure in their homes and communities, the Forum will continue to work with An Garda Síochána and all agencies to build upon the collaborative experience garnered through the pandemic.

### *3.4.6 Digitally Adapted*

The implementation of the original Strategy was and remains supported by the 'Clare Digital Strategy' that ensures local people as well as enterprises and



entrepreneurs have access to high-speed broadband in their own community. A number of digital hubs were established where entrepreneurs, visitors, and local people, irrespective of their sector (agriculture, tourism, local services, international businesses, etc.) now have access to these hubs to use digital technologies as appropriate to their needs. In addition, the Strategy focused and will continue to do so, on ensuring that broadband is available and continues to be rolled out and improved in accordance with the National Broadband Plan, improved connectivity is prioritised in rural Clare and that communities have the skills and competencies to prosper in the digital society.

#### 3.4.7 Modern Infrastructure

Modern life, whether in rural or urban areas, requires a range of publicly provided infrastructure, in the areas of Transport, Education, Water, etc. Innovative rural transport initiatives will be developed, as well as community bus initiatives to supplement the current rural provision. These initiatives will extend the times of availability and reduce costs to the traveller. In conjunction with education, training and learning providers, additional opportunities in the areas of apprenticeships and traineeships will be developed that have greater local reach and relevance. A vibrant education/learning sector underpins the community's capacity to engage in the creation of its own future. As populations stabilise and begin to grow, local schools become more secure. The renewed Strategy will support the roll out of major and small water services Investment programmes to address the County's water and wastewater needs as supported in policy such as Housing for All, the National Development Plan and Our Rural Future.

Under the Climate Action Plan 2021 the Council is required to take actions to address the carbon reduction targets e.g., retrofitting, RES Development, etc., which will be reflected in Clare County Councils forthcoming Climate Action Plan, while regional skills for the green economy development are to be delivered within the context of the 2024 regional enterprise plan.







## 4. Making it Happen

### 4.1 Introduction

This Renewed Strategy has a clear focus on the much improved national and regional policy framework. The successful delivery to date of the original Strategy is beginning to meet development gaps across the County but clearly much more is required. A full alignment of public services under the umbrella of the Council with the support of the Forum can now realistically look to delivering additional resources, given the now established national policies. The Rural Development Forum will remain in place to ensure an ongoing focus on rural Clare and will be facilitated to develop its own agenda over the remaining life span of the Strategy.

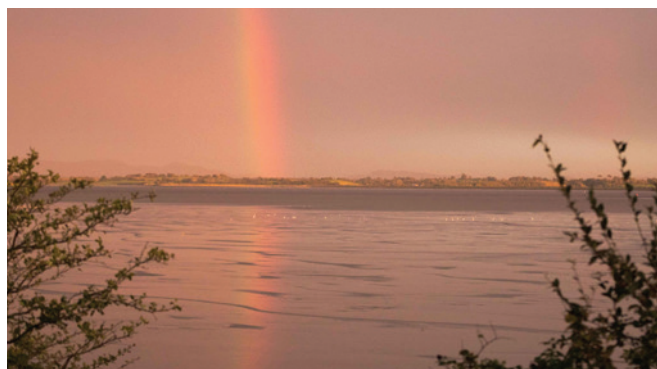
### 4.2 Role of Rural Development Forum

The Forum will continue to drive the delivery of the Strategy under the ten objectives and thirty three actions of the renewed strategy. In addition, the Forum will engage with other parallel strategies of the Council including ensuring that the ten renewed strategic objectives are fully incorporated into the Local Economic and Community Plan and the budgetary framework pertaining to Council services impacting rural areas in Clare.

The Forum, supported by a Council secretariat, will meet bi-annually and as required to:

- determine the necessity, brief and duration of specific sub-groups.
- determine how rural Clare can best benefit from national policy changes.
- receive reports from the different agencies outlining how their annual business planning reflects the key strategic objectives and key performance indicators of the Strategy.

The Forum will monitor the renewed Strategy with annual reviews of progress. Detailed reviews will take place in 2026 and in 2030 to measure performance against the key performance indicators which will be benchmarked and agreed with the responsible organisations delivering public services.





### 4.3 Signed Charter reflecting Agencies' commitment to Rural Clare

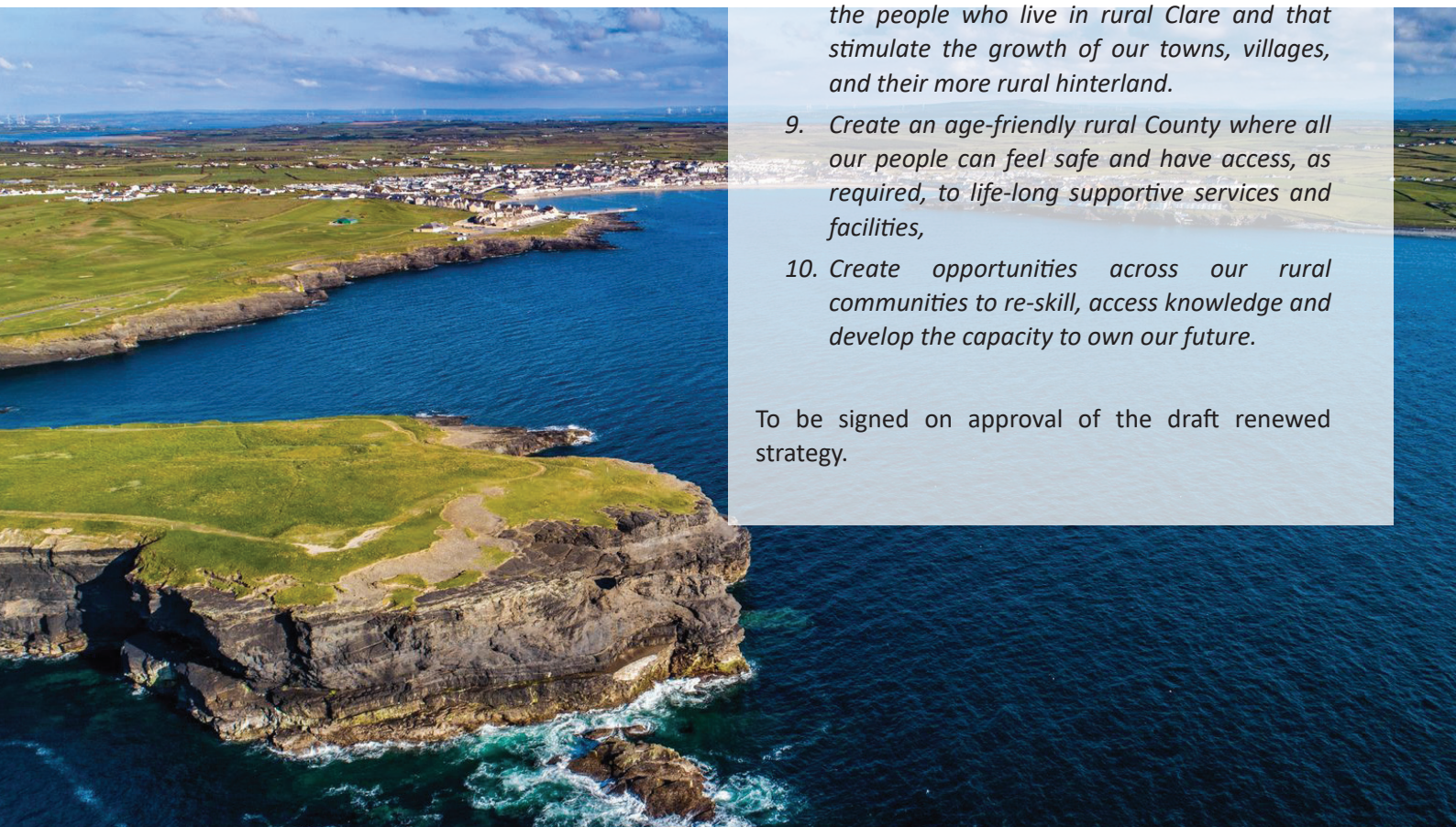
The renewed Strategy is the responsibility of the various communities and public service agencies. Consequently, it is essential, if the former is to engage, that the Forum members demonstrate their continuing commitment to the County. This will be done by aligning member organisations' expenditure and investment, as set out in their annual business plans, to the strategic objectives, investment hierarchy and performance indicators set out in this renewed strategy and we indicate our commitment to doing so, by signing the following charter:

*'Our Rural Future' and the National Development Plan sets out a vision of community action in rural Ireland for the next ten years. Consequently, it provides those of us, who are charged with the delivery of public services in County Clare, with a focus to which we will align our services. In the process, rural Clare will be placed at the heart of our actions, policies, and programmes.*

We will therefore, as appropriate to our mission:

1. *Prioritise the location(s) of our rural investments, developments, and services according to the strategic focus, settlement hierarchy and performance indicators identified in the renewed Rural Development Strategy.*
2. *Consult with the Rural Development Forum on the manner in which, and the extent to which, we are considering the renewed Strategy when developing our annual plans and prior to finalising them.*
3. *Consult with the Rural Development Forum on the inter-agency initiatives which we plan to undertake in rural communities, prior to finalising them, so that other agencies have an opportunity to consider and contribute to them.*
4. *Deliver actions and public services that best assure people's rural way of life economically, socially, and culturally.*
5. *Nurture entrepreneurship, co-operative working and sustainable living,*
6. *Sustain our rural heritage, foster our rural identities, and celebrate our cultural creativity,*
7. *Attract visitors to our County and increase the opportunities available in our rural communities for tourism development,*
8. *Put in place local policies and develop programmes that underpin the way of life of the people who live in rural Clare and that stimulate the growth of our towns, villages, and their more rural hinterland.*
9. *Create an age-friendly rural County where all our people can feel safe and have access, as required, to life-long supportive services and facilities,*
10. *Create opportunities across our rural communities to re-skill, access knowledge and develop the capacity to own our future.*

To be signed on approval of the draft renewed strategy.







## 5. Implementation, Performance Indicators and Actions

This renewed strategy envisages up to ten renewed objectives to be delivered across 33 sub actions set out below.

### 5.1 Building Social Enterprises

Action	Responsible agency
Action 1: Completion of audit of social enterprises in the County	Council/Clare Digihub with the support of TUS
Action 2: Delivery of a capacity/training and development programmes for social enterprise entrepreneurs <sup>1</sup>	Council with support of EPA, LEO and EI
Action 3: Delivery of market awareness/mentoring for local social enterprise entrepreneurs and enterprises	LEO, EI, Council
Action 4: Delivery of employment through social enterprise	LEO, EI, Council

### 5.2 Growing our Multi-Service Centres and digital/broadband

Action	Responsible agency
Action 1: Completion of digital hub network and integration with Mid-west network	Digiclare
Action 2: Percentage increase in utilisation of hub network facilities	Council with support of EPA, LEO and EI
Action 3: Delivery of rural broadband and improved speeds	Broadband Office and NBN



### 5.3 Co-operating Communities under the umbrella of the Municipal District Offices

Action	Responsible agency
Action 1: Commence process of local community plan development and Implementation under Town Centre First	Multi Agency
Action 2: Build on the existing collaborative frameworks between communities to support economies of scale and the ongoing work of the MD.	Council
Action 3: Harnessing the existing built resources in our towns and villages for renovation and reuse	Council
Action 4: Reduction of vacant properties across each municipal district.	Council

### 5.4 Managing the Environment and just transition to carbon neutrality

Action	Responsible agency
Action 1: Work with CARO to prepare and adopt Climate Action Plan	Council and Forum with CARO
Action 2: Preparation of community engagement plan to address just transition issues and awareness raising of funding opportunities	Forum with PPN and support of CARO
Action 3: Reduction in carbon emissions	Council and Forum with support of CARO

### 5.5 Age Friendly Health and Wellbeing

Action	Responsible agency
Action 1: Implementation of Age Friendly Plan in rural Clare	Clare Age Friendly Alliance Board with support from the Older People's Council, Clare County Council and Forum
Action 2: Implementation of the Healthy Clare Strategy	Clare County Council and Forum and Healthy Clare Partners

### 5.6 Sustaining our rural way of life through our dynamic agriculture and marine communities

Action	Responsible agency
Action 1: Provision of bespoke climate training in construction, offshore etc., through local training centre	Council and CARO & Partners
Action 2: Implementation of Strategic Integration Framework Plan for the Shannon Estuary	SISF Planning Team
Action 3: Diversification in income generation	Teagasc/Farming Bodies/Council
Action 4: Positioning of rural Clare to take advantage of offshore renewable energy delivery	Council and Caro with the support of Sustainable Energy Communities and SEAI
Action 5: Delivery of active travel projects across the County	Council



## 5.7 Enhancement of Transport and Water/ Wastewater Infrastructure

Action	Responsible agency
Action 1: Preparation of demonstration actions for village centre renewal and underpinning water/ wastewater packages for submission to Department of Rural and Community Development	Irish Water and Council
Action 2: Enhanced delivery of public transport networks across rural Clare	National Transport Authority and Transport for Ireland with the support of Local Link and facilitation through Clare County Council

## 5.8 Education, Child, and Youth Services

Action	Responsible agency
Action 1: Roll out of tertiary and adult training	ETB with support of tertiary sector and council/forum
Action 2: Support delivery of the Co. Clare Children and Young People's Plan 2019 – 2021 and the review and drafting of a subsequent Plan	Clare Children and Young People's Services Committee in association with Tusla, LCETB and Council
Action 3: Development of an audit of childcare/ youth services in rural Clare and the design of a service implementation plan to meet the needs of the children/youth of Clare	Clare Children and Young People's Services Committee in association with Tusla, LCETB and Council
Action 4: Yearly meetings between Forum and Clare Children and Young People's Services Committee to be organised	Clare Children and Young People's Services Committee in association with Tusla, LCETB and Council

## 5.9 Building tourism

Action	Responsible agency
Action 1: Implementation of Tourism Strategy 2030	Council

## 5.10 Population growth and balance & Meeting the needs of incoming communities

Action	Responsible agency
Action 1: Preparation of an updated statistical analysis of the County	Rural Development Department, Clare County Council
Action 2: Consideration of the need for an Anti-Poverty Strategy for the County	Forum
Action 3: Establishment of support networks and volunteer framework to help integrate our incoming populations	Council, Forum
Action 4: Provision of safeguarding training to the community and voluntary sector in the County	Multi-Agency
Action 5: Undertake skills/education audit to identify possible opportunities for the incoming population	Council/LCDC/LEO/CLRDC



### 5.11 Performance Indicators

In more strategic terms the following key indicators will be used to appraise successful implementation of the renewed strategy along with our respective sub actions.

1. Percentage increase in population in rural Clare (allowing for the Ukraine population) and population balance across the County.
2. Percentage increase in commercial rate income within each municipal district as a direct result of increased business activity and creation of new business opportunities
3. Percentage increase in public expenditure as a consequence of the Strategy
4. Reduction in vacancy/dereliction rates in the County
5. Percentage increase in full time /equivalence employment in rural Clare
6. Percentage increase in rural transport usage and percentage reduction in private car ownership
7. Number of Teacher/pupil ratio in rural schools
8. Prioritise rollout of Broadband in Rural Clare and monitor broadband speeds across the county
9. Fluctuations in deprivation scores (consequent on Census 2022 returns) and based upon an updated statistical analysis of socio-economic conditions in the County
10. Percentage increase in rural population having access to improved wastewater treatment infrastructure.

It is also important to note that there is potential in the strategic vision to support steps towards more vibrant innovative village cores through harnessing existing built and heritage resources, enhancing the public realm spaces including utilising climate aware responses where appropriate and delivering outcomes through community, local authority and agency led initiatives. The objective would be to renew the sense of place and belonging, improve financial health, create employment, repopulation and enhance the quality of life in rural towns and villages of Clare.

Architecturally, noting the challenges of dereliction and abandonment of properties (often of unique charm) within our rural streetscape; there will be more emphasis on the built environment as a potential catalyst for more vibrant villages.

A key difference in this renewed strategy is that a limited number of tangible actions underpinned by key performance indicators are now included to allow the Forum to continuously provide evaluation and oversight of the renewed strategy and to position the Forum to identify new opportunities which could feed into any future strategy, plan, or programme relevant to the renewal of rural Clare.

The continued success of the delivery of this Renewed Strategy remains the shared commitment of the Clare Rural Development Forum members and the organisations they represent.





# Appendix 1

## Clare Rural Development Forum

### Membership and Secretariat

Name	Organisation Representing
Pat Dowling (Chair)	Chief Executive, Clare County Council
Cllr Tony O'Brien	Cathaoirleach Clare County Council
Leonard Cleary	Director of Services, Rural Development Directorate, Clare County Council
Aine Mellett	Tusla
Arlene White	Clare Walks
Brian Riney	Southern Regional Assembly
Cathrionna Lavelle	Clarecare
Charlie Glynn	Kilrush Town Team
Ciaran Lynch	Managing Director, Community Engagement Partners and Formerly Development Manager, LIT
Councillor Cillian Murphy	Clare County Councillor, Member LCDC
Councillor Bill Chambers	Clare County Councillor, Member LCDC
Councillor Gabriel Keating	Clare County Council
Councillor Joe Killeen	Clare County Council
Councillor John Crowe	Clare County Council
Councillor Pat Burke	Clare County Council
Councillor Pat Hayes	Clare County Council, Chair of the Rural SPC
Councillor PJ Ryan	Clare County Council, Chair of the Working Group for the Action Plan for Rural Ireland
Councillor Johnny Flynn	Clare County Council, Member LCDC
Councillor Joe Garrihy	Clare County Council
Councillor Paul Murphy	Clare County Council, Clare GAA
Colette Bradley	Shannon Family Resource Centre
Con Donnellan	Office of Public Works
Doirin Graham	Clare Local Development Company
Dr Michael Hannon	GMIT
Garda Edel Burke	An Garda Síochána
Frances O'Connell	Technological University of The Shannon
Gareth Makim	Dept of Rural and Community Development
Gerard Reidy	Ennistymon Town Team
Geraldine Quinn	HSE
James Power	LCETB
Jim Connolly	Rural Resettlement Ireland
John Aston	Loop Head Tourism
John Moroney	University of Limerick



John Sweeney	Clare Sports partnership
Katherine Webster	Burren Tourism
Kees Duson	Killaloe Ballina Family Resource Centre
Margaret Slattery	Clare Youth Service
Martina Enright	Teagasc
Mary Moloney	Department of Social Welfare
Mary O'Donoghue	West Clare Family Resource Centre
Maurice Walsh	Durty Nellies- Hotelier Tourism
Michelle Lynch	North Clare Family Resource Centre
Padraic McElwee	Head of Enterprise, Local Enterprise Office
Sarah Clancy	Clare PPN
Seamus Hoyne	Technological University of The Shannon
Sean Lally	Woodstock Hotel
Carole Head	OPC
William Cahir	Chamber of Commerce
Andrew Dundas	Irish Farmers Association
Christy Sinclair	PPN – Environmental Interest
Liz Kennedy	Technological University of The Shannon
Ann Marie Flanagan	PPN – Social Inclusion Interest
Rose Ann White	PPN - Community and Voluntary Interest
Deirdre O'Shea	Head of Tourism Clare County Council
Bernadette Haugh	Senior Executive Officer, Rural Development Clare County Council
Siobhan O'Reilly	Administrative Officer, Rural Development Clare County Council
Karen Fennessy	Administrative Office Rural Development Clare County Council
Brendan Boyce	Acting Administrative Officer Rural Development Clare County Council
Urban McMahon	Broadband/Digital Officer & HIS, Clare County Council
Seamus Murrihy	Rural and Community Development Officer, Clare County Council
Niamh Wiley	Rural and Community Development Officer, Clare County Council

We acknowledge the participation of all of the above members in the review of the strategy while noting that some membership changes have taken place

### **Secretariat: Rural and Community Development Department Clare County Council**

Leonard Cleary: **Director of Rural Development**

Bernadette Haugh: **Senior Executive Officer**

Ruth Hurley: **Senior Executive Architect**

Siobhan O'Reilly, Karen Fennessy and Brendan Boyce: **Administrative Officers**

Dena McGrath: **Healthy County Co-Ordinator**

Joe Spellissy: **Senior Staff Officer**

Frank Cullinan and Kathy Coleman: **Staff Officers**

John Treacy: **Burial Grounds and Community Playgrounds**

Claire Rutherford and Helen Moloney: **Assistant Staff Officers**

Anita O'Loughlin, Siobhan Mungovan and Dawn Bravender: **Clerical Officers**

Niamh Wiley and Seamus Murrihy: **Rural & Community Development Officers**

# Appendix 2

## National, Regional and Local Plans/Policies

### National:

Our Rural Future – Rural Development Policy 2021-2025

National Development Plan 2021 – 2030

Housing For All: A New Housing Plan for Ireland

National Broadband Plan

Report of the Commission on the Economic Development of Rural Areas

COVID-19 Regional Economic Analysis (Regional Assemblies)

Community Call: Learning for the Future

Remote working during COVID-19: Ireland's National Survey Phase II Report (Whitaker Institute)

Digital Innovation Programme

Leader Programme 2023 -2028

Ireland's UN SDGs 2019 - Report on Indicators for Goal 4: Quality Education (CSO)

Driving Recovery and Sustainable Growth 2021-2024 (IDA Ireland)

Western Development Commission

Regional Enterprise Development Fund 2017-2020

Regional Technology Cluster Fund

Healthy Ireland Framework 2019-2025

Making Remote Work: National Remote Work Strategy (Government of Ireland)

National SME and Entrepreneurship Growth Plan (Government of Ireland)

Tourism Recovery Plan 2020 - 2023

Culture 2025 (Government of Ireland)

National Policy Statement on the Bioeconomy (Government of Ireland)

Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy (Government of Ireland)

The Town Centre Living Initiative – Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities (Government of Ireland)

National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making

Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020-2025: Ambition, Goals, Commitments (Government of Ireland)

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2017 – 2021

The National Positive Ageing Strategy (Government of Ireland)

National Sports Policy 2018 - 2027 (Government of Ireland)

Our Public Libraries 2022

Creative Ireland

National Volunteering Strategy 2021 - 2025 (Government of Ireland)

Measuring Distance to Everyday Services in Ireland, 2019 (CSO)

Policing with Local Communities (Garda Síochána Inspectorate)

The Future of Policing in Ireland (Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland)

Regional Airports Programme 2021-2025

National Adaptation Framework

Food Wise 2025

Ag Climatise - A Roadmap towards Climate Neutrality (Government of Ireland)

National Farm Survey 2019 Results (Teagasc)

Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth (Government of Ireland)

Ireland's National Forest Inventory (Government of Ireland)

Urban Regeneration and Development Fund

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund

Town and Village Renewal Scheme

20-year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030

Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill

Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan for the period 2023-2027

Nursing Home Support Scheme (Fair Deal Scheme)

Fisheries Local Area Group (FLAG) scheme

Pathways to Work Strategy 2021 - 2025

National Economic Plan (NEP)

National Recovery and Resilience Plan

Project Ireland 2040

Croi Conaithe- Town Centres First Policy

National Planning Framework



Putting People First: Action Programme for Effective Local Government

Enterprise 2025 Renewed - Building resilience in the face of global challenges.

Report of the SME Taskforce: National SME and Entrepreneurship Growth Plan.

National Further Education and Training Strategy 2020 – 2024

Building Future Skills: The Demand for Skills in Ireland's Built Environment Sector to 2030

People, Place and Policy - Growing Tourism to 2025

Transport Infrastructure Ireland

Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities: A Five-Year Strategy to Support the Community and Voluntary Sector in Ireland 2019-2024

National Policy Statement the Bioeconomy

CAP Strategic Plan 2023 - 2027

Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan

Youth Justice Strategy 2021 - 2027

Civil Defence - Towards 2030

IDA Ireland: Driving Recovery and Sustainable Growth 2021 – 2024

Ireland's Diaspora Strategy 2020-2025

Sláintecare Implementation Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2023

Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020 - 2025

National Dementia Strategy

National Carers Strategy

20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010–2030

National Migrant Integration Strategy

Mid-West Regional Enterprise Plan 2024

Place, Space and People, A new Arts Council Policy Framework for socio-spatial equity in the arts, The Arts Council, 2022

Vacant Homes Action Plan

Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy

Mid-West Regional Enterprise Plan 2022 -2024

#### Local:

Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029

Clare Age Friendly Strategy 2018-2022 (as extended)

Clare Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2023

Clare Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024

Clare County Heritage Plan 2017-2023

Clare County LECP 2016 – 2021

Clare Digital Strategy 2023 - A Five Year Strategy

Clare Homelessness Action Plan 2013-2018

Clare Road Safety Strategy 2014 – 2020

Clare Rural Development Strategy 2026

County Clare Tourism Strategy 2030

Corporate Plan 2019 – 2024

Corporate Procurement Plan 2022 – 2024

Flourish Clare Arts Development Plan 2019-2023

Healthy Clare Strategic Plan 2019-2021 (as extended)

Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022-2026

Spatial and Economic Plan for Ennis 2040

Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 - 2024

Clare Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027

Flourish, Clare County Arts Development Plan 2019-2023

## Notes:-





## Notes:-











COMHAIRLE CONTAE AN CHLÁIR  
CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL